

SENATE BILL 2227
By Miller

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40,
Chapter 38 and Title 41, Chapter 21, Part 2,
relative to establishing within the department of
correction an automated victim notification system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 21, Part 2, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

§ 41-21-244.

(a) The department shall establish an automated victim notification
system that shall be required to do the following:

(1) Automatically notify a registered crime victim when a
committed offender:

(A) is transferred or assigned to another facility within the
department;

(B) is transferred to a facility not operated by the
department;

(C) is given a difficult security classification;

(D) is released on temporary leave or otherwise;

(E) is discharged; or

(F) has escaped.

(2) Permit a crime victim to receive the most recent status report
for an offender by calling the automated victim notification system on a
toll free telephone number.

(3) Permit a crime victim to register or update the victim's registration for the automated victim notification system by calling a toll free telephone number.

(b) The notification of a crime victim by the automated victim notification system satisfies the department's obligation to notify the crime victim of an offender's release under § 41-21-240.

(c) The department shall ensure that the offender information contained within the automated victim notification system is updated frequently enough to timely notify a crime victim that an offender has been released, has been discharged, or has escaped. However, the failure of the automated victim notification system to provide notice to the victim does not establish a separate cause of action by the victim against the state or against the department.

(d) Law enforcement officers shall cooperate with the department in establishing and maintaining the automated victim notification system.

(e) The department shall administer the automated victim notification system. The costs of administering the system shall be paid with appropriations from the department and from federal grants and contracts.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.